

March 5, 2018

RE: Written Testimony HB 5372

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Shannon Hollman and I live in Windsor, Connecticut. I fully support HB 5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs.

My son, Raiden, is 9 years old, in 4<sup>th</sup> grade, and has dyslexia and dysgraphia. Raiden has always had an eagerness to learn. However, when he entered Kindergarten he could not learn to read in general education. He began telling me that he was "stupid" and that he wished he "wasn't born". Six-year-old children should not be coming home from school and telling their parents they do not want to live because their teacher does not know how to teach him/her. The effect that unidentified dyslexia has on our children's self-worth and confidence is heartbreaking and completely unnecessary. There is no reason that we can't educate our teachers so that no child must go through this.

My son was not identified as dyslexic until 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Two years after his reading difficulty began. Had Raiden's teachers had knowledge of dyslexia, he could have been identified and began an appropriate reading intervention much sooner. Raiden has now received specialized instruction in Special Education since being identified in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. He now excels in reading, however, the trauma of feeling "stupid" from 2 years of struggling with reading will always be a part of my son's character, and his self-esteem may never fully recover. The negative impact on Raiden could have been completely avoided had the teachers and the school had accountability measures implemented regarding dyslexia. Not to mention the countless hours, and money, that the school wasted when they were not meeting my child's needs.

I appreciate the opportunity to submit my son's story as just one example of how important dyslexia legislation is to students and their families.

Sincerely,



Shannon R. Hollman  
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